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(54) Polishing Apparatus

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Specification

1. Title of the Invention: Polishing Apparatus

2. Scope of Patent Claims

A polishing apparatus, wherein there is provided a polishing device that polishes the object to be polished with a weight that moves freely back and forth through the work holder and that holds the object to be finished and rotates around a point that is off-center from a lap lathe's center of rotation. In this polishing device, there is a channel that is vertical with respect to the surface of the object to be finished and inside this channel is a weight that is equipped with an objective lens, the focal point of which is positioned below the lower end by a specific amount. There is a light source that projects light onto the surface of the object to be finished through the aforementioned objective lens and an optical means equipped with a light-receiving element that converts the reflected light from the surface being worked into electrical signals. There is also a control means that turns off the polishing device when a signal that is output from the aforementioned light-receiving element is compared with and matches a predetermined reference value.

3. Detailed Explanation of Invention

This invention relates to a polishing apparatus for performing lapping, and in particular, relates to a polishing apparatus that processes transparent objects to be finished with efficiency and a high degree of dimensional precision.

Lap processing is used to improve the formation precision or coarseness of a normal, finished surface. At the same time, with lap processing, changes in processing conditions can cause considerable variation in the amount of processing per unit of time. Thus, when processing the dimensions of the object to be finished (the dimensions in the vertical direction with respect to the finished surface) in a highly precise manner, the polishing and measuring of the dimensions of the object to be finished are repeated many, many times. The disadvantage is a considerable reduction in productivity.

The object of the present invention lies in providing a polishing apparatus that enhances productivity by eliminating the disadvantages of prior art and detecting the end point of a process through the objects being finished, when transparent objects are finished.

In order to achieve the above object, the present invention supports the object to be finished with a work holder that rotates on a spindle which is off center with respect to the lap lathe's center of rotation. The work holder has a channel that allows free reciprocal motion and a channel that is vertical with respect to the surface of the object to be finished. Inside this channel is a weight provided with an objective lens that is positioned such that the focal point is a specified amount lower than the lower edge surface of the channel. This weight is placed inside the channel when processing and the surface of the object to be finished is illuminated through the aforementioned objective lens. The light reflected from the finished surface is received and converted into an electrical signal. This signal is compared to a predetermined standard value, making it possible for the thickness of the object being finished to be detected and to cause the polishing device to stop when the aforementioned signal matches the standard value.

Below, we explain an embodiment of the present invention with reference to drawings.

The configuration of this embodiment of the invention is shown in Figures 1 through 3, and in the same figures, 1 is the base and the spindle 3 is supported by the bearings 2. Between the pulley 4 and the spindle 3 is a gear device (not shown) that transfers motion. 5 is a motor that is linked to a governor 6, and motion is transferred to the pulley 4 through the pulley 7 of the governor 6 and the belt 8, which turns the spindle 3.9 is a lap lathe, which is affixed to the upper end of the spindle 3 and the polishing cloth 10 is affixed to its upper surface. 11 is a support. One end of the U-shaped opening end holds the aforementioned bearings 2 in place and the other end projects out over the top of the polishing cloth 10. 12 is a support spindle that projects out from one end of the aforementioned support 11 in opposition to the polishing cloth 10. The work holder 14 is joined to the tip of the support 12 by means of the bearing 13 so that the work holder 14 can rotate. This work holder 14 has a channel 15 that passes through it, and this channel 15 houses the object to be finished 16 and the weight 17 so that they are capable of reciprocal action. As shown in Figure 2, the aforementioned weight 17 is equipped with the channel 19 that has a ledge in the center of the main unit 18. The bearings 20 that project into this channel 19 support an advance screw 22 equipped with a fixed handle 21 on one end so that it can turn freely, 23 is a tube that supports the lens 24, and a nut 25 that protrudes from its outside surface meshes with the screw 22 so that it rises and falls as the advance screw 22 is turned. 26 is a half mirror and when the lap lathe 9 rotates, it is positioned above a point on the path that the center of the aforementioned lens 24 will trace. It reflects part of the laser light from the laser oscillator 27 that passes through the lens 24. In addition to illuminating the surface being finished, it allows part of the reflected light to pass through from the surface being finished to the photosensor 28. 29 is the control means. Based on the electrical signal from the photosensor 28, the power supply to the aforementioned motor 5 is turned off, stopping the motor 5 and ending the process. As shown in Figure 3, the control means 29 is connected to the photosensor 28, and the signals sent from the photosensor 28 are amplified in the amplifier circuit 31 to a magnitude that makes signal processing possible. Connected to this amplifier circuit 31 is a bandpass filter 32 that removes signal noise applied by the amplifier circuit 31. Connected to this bandpass filter 32 is an A/D conversion circuit 33 that converts the signal applied sent out from the bandpass filter into a digital signal. Connected to this A/D conversion circuit 33 is a switch 34 that has two contacts, A and B. Connected to contact A of the switch 34 is the storage circuit 35 that stores the maximum value of the digital signal sent from the A/D conversion circuit as a reference value. Connected to this storage circuit 35 is a latch clear switch 36 that deletes the value stored in the storage circuit 35. Connected to contact B of the aforementioned switch 34 and to the storage circuit 35 is a comparator circuit 37 that compares the digital signal from the A/D conversion circuit 33 and the reference value from the storage circuit 35 and then generates a signal when these values match. Connected to this comparator circuit 37 is a switching circuit 38 that is connected manually and shuts off when the signal is sent from the comparator circuit 37. Note that 39 is a monitor circuit. It is connected between the switch 34 and the storage circuit 35. It is set up to display the voltage applied by the A/D converter circuit 33.

In the above configuration, a reference value is set in the storage circuit 35 by first pressing the latch clear switch 36 and deleting the old reference value that was set in the storage circuit 35 and switching the switch 34 to contact A. At the same time, a lapping agent is supplied to the top of the polishing cloth 10 while the lap lathe is turned. After the lapping agent has been dispersed throughout the top of the polishing cloth 10, the lap lathe 9 is stopped and the master gauge, which has been finished to specific dimensions, and the weight 17 are inserted into the channel 15 of the work holder 14. Then, laser light is generated by the laser oscillator 27, illuminating the contact surface of the polishing cloth 10 and the master gauge through the half mirror 26 and the lens 24. That reflected light is received by the photosensor 28 through the lens 24 and the half mirror 26. Thus configured, the handle 21 is turned and the focal point of the laser light that is focused by the lens 24 is aligned to the contact

surface of the polishing cloth 10 and the master gauge. This is achieved by positioning the lens 24 while watching for the maximum output from the A/D conversion circuit 33 on the monitor circuit 39 display. After the reference value has been set in this way, the switch 34 is switched to contact B. At the same time, the weight 17 and the master gauge are removed and the object to be finished 16 is placed in the channel 15. At this point, lapping agent is supplied to the top of the polishing cloth 10, the motor 5 is started, and the lap lathe 9 starts to turn. This will begin the polishing of the object to be finished 16. At this point, the work holder 14 will be off-center with respect to the polishing cloth 10 such that the work holder 14 will also turn, with the support spindle 12 at its center. Thus, each time the work holder 14 makes one full turn, the object being finished 16 will pass under the half mirror 26. Then, when the object being finished 16 is positioned underneath the half mirror 26, it will be illuminated by the laser light and the reflected light will be received by the photosensor 28 and converted into an electrical signal. The output from the photosensor 28 goes to the amplifier circuit 31, the bandpass filter 32, the A/D conversion circuit 33, and the switch 34 before going to the comparator circuit 37. It is then compared with the reference value that is stored in the storage circuit 35. At this point, if the output from the A/D conversion circuit 33 matches the reference value, the comparator circuit 37 will generate a signal, switch circuit 38 will go into operation, and the motor 5 will be stopped. In this way, the object being finished 10 is worked to the desired dimensions.

Note that when setting the reference value, when the master gauge is not used, lens 24 is positioned so that the focal point is lower than the bottom edge surface of the weight 17 by the same amount as the desired dimensions (the dimensions of the object to be finished 16 after processing). Then, the focal point is placed on the object being finished 10 or a dummy object made of the same material, and polishing continues until the output from the A/D conversion circuit 33 exceeds the maximum value. The aforementioned maximum value may be set as the reference value.

As described above, this invention illuminates the processing position of a transparent object that is being polished. By receiving the light that is reflected, the amount that the object being finished can be detected, which makes continuous processing possible without having to stop the machine from the time that processing begins until it has ended. This allows a significant improvement in productivity. Additionally, the amount of processing is detected under identical conditions, which will have the effect of reducing variation in products and improve the quality of the finished objects.

4. Brief Explanation of Drawings

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Figure 1 shows a schematic diagram of an example of a polishing device based on the present invention. Figure 2 shows an enlarged cross-section of the weight in Figure 1. Figure 3 is a block line diagram of the control means in Figure 1.

9	Lap lathe	12	Support spindle
14	Work holder	15	Channel
16	Object to be finished	17	Weight
	Main unit	19	Channel
24	Lens	26	Half mirror
27	Laser oscillator	28	Photosensor
29	Control Means		

Representative Patent Attorney: Toshiyuki USUDA [seal]

Figure 1 [see source for diagram]

Figure 2 [see source for diagram]

Figure 3 [see source for diagram]

GRINDING MACHINE

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Applicant:

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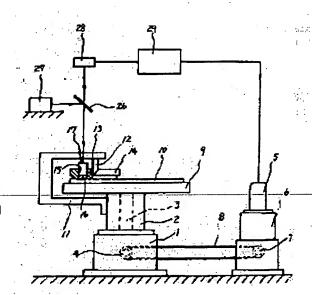
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Abstract of **JP57138575**

PURPOSE:To make it possible to work continuously without stopping machine from starting to finish of the work in a grinding machine that laps a transparent work by shooting light to the position of working of a work and receiving the light reflected from the work to detect the amount of working of the work.

CONSTITUTION: A motor 5 is operated and a lapping machine 9 is rotated to grind the lower face of a work 16 that is set in the piercing hole 15 of a work holder 14 with lapping agent supplied to a polishing cloth 10. During the grinding laser light from a laser stimulating device 27 is directed to the grinding face of the work-16-through-an-objective-lens-of-a-weight-17 that is provided on the piercing hole 15, and the laser light reflected from the grinding face is received by a photo-sensor 28 and the light is converted into electricity. The output signal from the photo-sensor 28 is input to a control device 29. In this control device 29 the input is compared with a beforehand set reference value. If the output signal coincides with the reference value, the motor 5 is stopped, and the rotation of the lapping machine is stopped, and the work is machined to a specified dimension.



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明細書

- 1 発明の名称 研密装置
- 2 特許請求の範囲

3 発明の詳細な説明

本発明は、ラップ加工を行なりための研磨装

置に係り、特に、透明な被加工物の寸法 を高精 度に効率よく加工するようにした研磨装 躍 に関 するものである。

ラップ加工は、通常加工面の流さや形 状 精 胺 を向上させる場合に用いられている。一方、ラップ加工においては、加工条件の変動に よって 単位時間当りの加工 能が大きく変動する。 したがって、被加工物の 寸法 (加工管 になるまで、 研 磨 には、加工物の 寸法 測定 を何回もくり返し行 なった は 加工物の 寸法 測定 を何回もくり返して なった がある。

本発明の目的は、上記した従来技術の 欠点をなくし、透明な被加工物を加工する際、 被 加工物を通して加工終了位置を検出し、生産 性 を向上させるようにした研磨装置を提供する に ある上記目的を逸成するため、本発明においてはラップ定盤の回転中心から偏心した軸心を中心として回転するワークホルダに保持された 被加

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以下本発明の一実施例を図面にしたがって説明する。

第1図ないし第3図は本発明の一実施例を示するので、同図において、1はペースにして、軸受2を介して軸3を回転自在に支持し、ブーリ4と軸3の間は図示しない。。5はモータにして、波速機6に結合され、減速機6のブーリ7を伝送のベルト8を介してブーリ4に動力を伝達し、

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る。26はハーフミラにして、ラップ定盤9が回 転したとき、前記レンズ24の中心が通る軌跡の 一点の上方に配置され、レーザ発振器27からの レーザ光の一部を反射して、レンズ24を通し、 加工面を照射すると共に、加工面からの反射光 の一部を透過させ、フォトセンサ28に受光させ るようになっている。29は制御手段にして、フ *トセンサ28からの電気信号に基いて、前記モ ータ5の電源を遮断し、モータ5を止めて加工 を終了させる。制御手段29は、第3図に示すよ りに、フォトセンサ28に接続され、フォトセン サ28から印加される信号を信号処理な可能な大 きさに増巾する増巾回路31と、この増巾回路31 に接続され、増巾回路31から印加された信号の ノイメを除去するパンドパスフィルタ32と、こ のパンドパスフィルタ32に接続され、パンドバ スフィルタ32から印加される信号をディジタル 信号に変換する A/D 変換回路33と、この A/D 変 換回路33に接続され、2個の接点A,Bを有する 切替スイッチ34と、切替スイッチ34の接点Aに

眦3を回転させるよりになっている。9はラッ プ定盤にして、軸3の上端に固定され、かつ、 上面にポリシングクロス10を固定している。11 は支持部材にして、コの字形の開口部の一端が 前記軸受2に固定され、他の一端がポリシング クロス10の上方に尖出している。12は支持軸に して、前記支持部材11の一端からポリシングク ロス10と対向するように突出し、その先端にべ アリング13を介してワークホルダ14を回転可 能 に結合している。とのワークホルダ14Kは**貝**通 穴15が形成され、この資通穴15の中に、被加工 物16および確17を摺動可能に収容するようにな っている。前記離17は、第2図に示すよりに、 本体18の中央に段付きの貫通穴19が穿設されて いる。との貫通穴19内に突出する軸受20には、 一端にハンドル21を固定した送りねじ22が回 転 自在に支持されている。23はレンズ24を保持す る筒にして、その外側面から突出するナット 25 が前記送りねじ22と媒合し、送りねじ22の回転 によってレンズ24を昇降させるようになって い

- 4 -

接続され、 A/D 変換回路 34から印加される ディ ジタル信号の最大値を基準値として保持する よ りにした保持回路35と、この保持回路35℃接続 され、保持回路35で保持した値を消去する ラッ チクリアスイッチ36と、前記切替スイッチ34の 接点Bと保持回路35に接続され、保持回路35か ら印加される基準値と A/D 変換回路 3.5から 印 加 されたディジタル信号を比較し、その値が ― 教 したとき一個の信号を発振する比較回路37 と、 この比較回路37に接続され、手動で接続し、 か つ、比較回路37から印加された信号で切られる ようにしたスイッチ回路38とによって構成 され ている。なお、39はモニタ回路にして、切 替ス イッチ34と保持回路35の間に接続され、A/D 変 換回路33から印加される電圧を袋示するように なっている。

上記の構成において、保持回路35に基準 値を 設定するには、まず、ラッチクリアスイン チ36 を押して、保持回路35に設定されている古 い 基 単値を消去すると共に、切替スイッチ34を 接点

A 側に切替える。一方、ラップ定盤 9 を回転さ せながらポリシングクロス10上にラップ剤を供 給し、ポリシングクロス10上にラップ剤を分散 させたのち、ラップ定盤りを止め、ワークホル ダ14の負通穴15に所定の寸法に加工されたマス タグージと強17を挿入する。そして、レーザ発 振器27からレーザ光を発振し、ハーフミラ26を よびレンズ24を通してマスタゲージとポリシン グクロス10の接触面を照射し、その反射光を、 レンズ24およびハーフミラ26を介してフォトセ ンサ28で受光する。との状態で、ハンドル21を 回し、レンメ24によって築光されるレーザ光の 紙点をマスタゲージとポリッシングクロス10の 接触面に合わせる。とれは、モニタ回路39の表 示を見ながら、 1/10 変換回路 33 の出力が最大の になるよりにレンズ24の位置失めを行なりとと により選成される。とのようにして、基準値の 設定が終ると、切替スイッチ34を接点B側に切 替える。一方、錘17およびマスタゲージを取出 し、貞通穴15に被加工物16をセットしたのち、

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なお、基準値を設定する際に、マスターゲージを使用しない場合には、錘17の下端面から所定の寸法(被加工物16の加工後の寸法)だけ下方に無点が位置するようにレンズ24の位置をセットしておき、とれを、被加工物10もしくは同材質のダミー上に戦せて、 A/D 変換回路33の出力が最大値を過ぎるまで研磨し、前記最大値を基準値として設定すればよい。

以上述べた如く、本発明によれば、研贈加工中に透明な被加工物の加工位置を照射し、その反射光を受光して被加工物の加工量を検出するようにしたので、加工開始から加工を行なりでとなく連続して加工を行なったとなった。また、同一条件で加工量の検出を行なって、加工後の被加工物の品質を向上させるにどの効果がある。

4 図面の簡単な説明

第1図は本発明による研胞装置の一例を示す

鍾17を載せる。この状態で、ポリシングクロス 10の上にラップ剤を供給しつつ、モータ5を作 動させ、ラップ定盤?を回転させる。すると、 被加工物16の研磨が行なわれる。とのとき、 ワ ークホルダ14がポリシングクロス10に対し偏心 位置にあるため、ワークホルダ14も、支持軸12 を中心として回転する。 したがって、ワーク ホ ルダ14が1回転する毎に、1回づつ、被加工物 16がハーフミラ26の下を通る。そして、被加工 物16がハーフミラ26の下に位置したとき、レー サ光によって照射され、その反射光がフォト セ ンサ28で受光され、電気信号に変換される。 フ ォトセンサ28の出力は増巾回路31、パンドパス フィルタ32、A/D変換回路33および切替スイッ チ34を通り比較回路37に印加され、保持回路35 に設定された基準値と比較される。 このとき、 A/D 変換回路33の出力と基準値が一致すると、 比較回路37から信号が発振され、スイッチ回路 38が作動して、モータ 5 を止める。とのよう に して、被加工物10は所定の寸法に加工される。

構成図、第2図は第1図における鮭の拡大断面図、第3図は第1図における制御手段のプロッ

9:ラップ定盤、 12:支持軸、

14:ワークホルダ、 15: 資通穴、

16: 被加工物、 17: 錘、

ク線図である。

29: 制御手段。

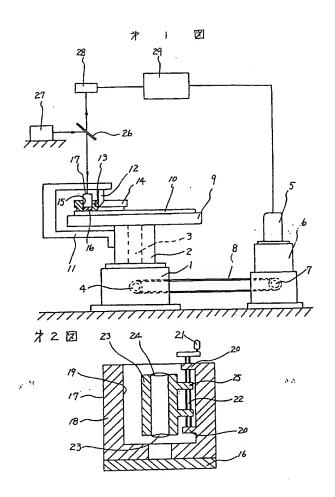
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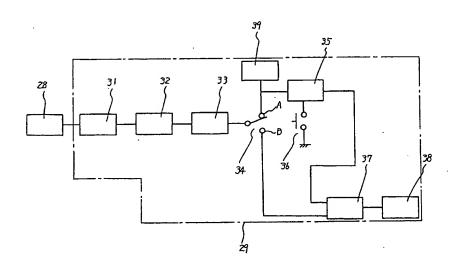
27:レーザ発扱器、 28:フォトセンサ、

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